

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A back light device for liquid crystal displays,  
comprising:

- 5       a fluorescent lamp;  
          an inverter to supply an alternating current or a pulse  
to the fluorescent lamp;  
          a reflection member to reflect light radiated from the  
fluorescent lamp;  
10       a diffusion member to diffuse the light;  
          a frame to house the fluorescent lamp, the inverter, the  
reflection member and the diffusion member therein;  
          an external electrode provided at a first end of the  
fluorescent lamp;  
15       an internal electrode provided at a second end of the  
fluorescent lamp; and  
          an extension electrode connected to the internal  
electrode, so that a plurality of fluorescent lamps are  
operated by the single inverter.

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2. The back light device according to claim 1, further  
comprising:

- a holding terminal provided at a predetermined position  
in the frame to hold each of the first and second ends of the  
25 fluorescent lamp, and connect the external electrode to the

extension electrode.